

SUBJECT: (Optional)

TOWNLEY, Michael Vernon

630

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

3 August 1978

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.	TO:	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
	DC/SAG				
1.	C/SAG	3 Aug 78			<p>Apparently the allegation regarding TOWNLEY is in the first edition of AHE's new release, "Court Action Information Bulletin" page 22.</p> <p>2. Info.</p> <p>I carried ADD of this info 3 Aug 78</p> <p>9 &amp; 10 into [redacted] my unit copy for [redacted] file [redacted]</p>
2.	[redacted]	3 Aug 78			
3.	ADD/PSI Glover	AUG 3 1978	8/3		
4.	D/S	3 AUG 1978			
5.	C/O PS/PSI	AUG 4 1978	8/4		
6.					
7.					
8.	D/SAG		8/8		
9.	[redacted]				
10.	[redacted]				
11.	files				
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

Declassified and  
Approved for Release  
July 2000

Declassified and  
Approved for Release  
July 2000

3 August 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Security Analysis Group

FROM: [REDACTED]  
Deputy Chief, Security Analysis Group

SUBJECT: TOWNLEY, Michael Vernon  
[REDACTED]

1. On 2 August 1978, the Deputy Director of Security, [REDACTED] advised that he had received an allegation that Michael Vernon TOWNLEY, allegedly one of the conspirators in the murder of Orlando LETELIER, had received some training at [REDACTED]

2. OS file [REDACTED] in the name of TOWNLEY contains no information which would support the allegation.

3. On 2 August 1978, [REDACTED] DDO, who described himself as the DDO officer centralizing DDO efforts in the LETELIER matter, advised that TOWNLEY was never used operationally by DDO and never received any training at [REDACTED] or any other Agency facility.

4. On 3 August 1978, [REDACTED] Office of Training advised he could locate no record that TOWNLEY had ever received any Agency training.

5. On 3 August 1978, [REDACTED] the Office having direct cognizance of [REDACTED] advised that she could locate no record that TOWNLEY had ever received any Agency training at [REDACTED]

6. The above information was [REDACTED] substance to the DD/S on 3 August 1978 [REDACTED]

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

B3

PAGE 001

09

MAR 78

O R 09 MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8403  
INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 5029  
BT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 1639

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, PGOV, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: DEVELOPMENTS MARCH 8/9

1. THE MAIN NEWS STORY TODAY IS THE POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION OF "ROMERAL" AS ARMY CAPTAIN ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS, REPORTED SEPARATELY IN SANTIAGO 1615

2. "EL MERCURIO" OF MARCH 9 REPRODUCES A SIGNED MARCH 7 STATEMENT BY MICHAEL TOWNLEY AND A PICTURE OF TOWNLEY WALKING ON AN UNIDENTIFIED CHILEAN BEACH. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT FOLLOWS:  
QUOTE:

I, MICHAEL V. TOWNLEY WELCH, US CITIZEN, BORN IN WATERLOO, IOWA, USA, HAVING ARRIVED IN CHILE WITH MY PARENTS IN 1957, MARRIED IN 1961 TO MARIANA GALLEJAS, WITH WHOM I HAVE TWO CHILDREN, DO DECLARE: THAT I HAVE NEVER AT ANY TIME TRAVELLED WITH OR HAVE ASSUMED THE PERSON OF JUAN WILLIAMS ROSE; THAT I HAVE NEVER POSSESSED OR TRAVELLED WITH A CHILEAN PASSPORT AND LEAST OF ALL WITH AN OFFICIAL CHILEAN PASSPORT; THAT I HAVE NEVER BELONGED TO, WORKED WITH OR HAVE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CIA OR EVEN LESS WITH THE MIR (MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT) AS CHARGED BY THE PRESS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS; THAT I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF ORLANDO LETELIER AND (FURTHERMORE) DO NOT KNOW WHO KILLED HIM; THAT MY PARTICIPATION IN THE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED CASE OF TELEVISION CHANNEL 5 OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN CONCEPCION WAS LIMITED TO COLLABORATING WITH TWO FRIENDS OF THAT PERIOD, IN LOCATING EQUIPMENT WHICH ILLEGALLY INTERFERED WITH THAT TELEVISION CHANNEL; THAT I WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF THE PAINTER HENRIQUEZ IN CONCEPCION; THAT OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WAS OFFERED TO AND ACCEPTED BY PEOPLE OF PATRIA Y LIBERTAD AND A LEADER OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY TELEVISION IN SANTIAGO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 002

THAT I HAVE NEVER BELONGED TO PATRIA Y LIBERTAD OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY OR MOVEMENT.

ON THE ABOVE MENTIONED, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY ASTONISHMENT AT THE TREATMENT WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE PRESS IN RECENT DAYS, WHICH HAS PRINTED ALL THE LIES AND SENSATIONALISM PUBLISHED IN THE POPULAR UNITY PRESS IN 1973 -- ESPECIALLY SINCE THE EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS OF THE SERIOUS PRESS OF TODAY, WHO ARE REPEATING ACCOUNTS USED BY THE WORST YELLOW PRESS OF THE ALLENDE ERA, KNEW ME AND COLLABORATED WITH ME AND MY WIFE DURING THAT ERA IN OPPOSING THE DISMAL GOVERNMENT OF THE POPULAR UNITY.

BECAUSE I HAVE NOT BEEN REQUIRED BY ANY AUTHORITY TO MAKE A STATEMENT OR PRESENT MYSELF, AND BECAUSE OF THE UNJUST PERSECUTION OF THE CURRENT PRESS -- SO SIMILAR TO THAT IN 1973 -- I HAVE NOT MADE ANY DECLARATIONS UP TO THIS TIME. HOWEVER, I WILL MAKE STATEMENTS RELATING TO THE CASE WHEN OFFICIALLY REQUIRED TO AND I HAVE THE MOST ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE AND TRANQUILITY THAT THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATING JUDGE WILL BRING TO LIGHT THE REAL FACTS, WHICH ARE:

I AM NOT JUAN WILLIAMS ROSE, I HAVE NEVER HAD A CHILEAN PASSPORT. I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DEATH OF ORLANDO LETELIER.

SANTIAGO, CHILE, MARCH 7, 1978

MICHAEL V. TOWNLEY WELCH

CARNET NUMBER 4,369,11-K SANTIAGO IMMIGRATION

END QUOTE

3. JUDICIAL ACTIONS: SPECIAL INVESTIGATION JUDGE LIBEDINSKY OFFICIALLY BEGAN HIS INVESTIGATION. HE PAID A ONE-HOUR CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL WHICH HE STRESSED WAS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, NOT JUDICIAL, AND HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT HIS FIRST TASK WILL BE TO DETERMINE WHETHER PERSONS WITH THE NAME JUAN WILLIAMS ROSE AND ALEJANDRO ROMERAL JARA EXIST. LIBEDINSKY NOTED THAT APPARENTLY THEY DO NOT, BUT THIS MUST BE ESTABLISHED JUDICIALLY. PRESSED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INTER-RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HIS INVESTIGATION AND THE HANDLING OF THE LETTERS ROGATORY BY THE FIRST CRIMINAL COURT, LIBEDINSKY FUZZ FUZZLED HIS RESPONSE: "THERE IS NO INFORMATION AT PRESENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING MY SPHERE OR ACTIVITY TO THE LETTERS ROGATORY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE .... IT IS A MATTER FOR THE SUPREME COURT." FIRST CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE JUANA GONZALEZ TOLD THE PRESS THAT SHE HAD SENT AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE MARCH 7, BUT DID NOT REVEAL ITS CONTENTS.

4. TODAY'S "LA TERCERA" CARRIED A LENGTHY ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

PAGE 003

OF CARLOS GUILLERMO OSORIO, REPORTEDLY THE FOREIGN OFFICE  
OFFICIAL WHO SIGNED THE LETTER TO THE US CONSULATE FOR OFFICIAL  
VISAS FOR "WILLIAMS" AND "ROMERAL." THE STORY IS DESCRIBED AS  
A RESPONSE TO THE "NEW YORK TIMES" STORY OF MARCH 8, ON THE SAME  
SUBJECT. IT ASSERTS THAT "LA TERCERA" REPORTERS, AS THE RESULT  
OF THEIR INVESTIGATIONS, ARE ABLE TO AFFIRM THAT OSORIO COMMITTED  
SUICIDE. THE STORY CLAIMS THAT POLICE OFFICIALS WERE ABLE  
TO DETERMINE FROM FRINGERPRINTS THAT OSORIO HAD PULLED THE TRIGGER  
ON THE SUICIDE WEAPON AND THAT EXAMINATION OF THE CORPSE  
FOLLOWING SUBSEQUENT EXHUMANTION CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS SUICIDE  
BY THE TRAJECTORY OF THE BULLET.  
LANDAU

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL